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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Argentina

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Conference of American Foreign Ministers
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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The opinion of the persons who attended these meetings is that President Peron governs Argentina, and that all important decisions are made by him personally. Strong influence from various sources, particularly from Senora Peron, is brought to bear on him.
2. The situation of the Argentine delegation is unique in that although Hipolito Paz is its leader, the delegation is composed of the three following groups, each having its own special interests.
 - a. Paz and his collaborators, representing political elements.
 - b. Army officers, reportedly bearing instructions independent from those of Paz.
 - c. The economic delegation, in which Senores Campos and Lopez represent Minister Ramon Cereijo.
3. Each of the three groups has its own assignment. The task of Paz is to establish and maintain the sovereignty of Argentina. During the meetings held prior to the departure of the Argentine delegation, it was apparent that Paz had very little information from the other Latin American countries as to the line of action they would adopt at the conference. Paz vaguely said that there were two groups of countries, namely, those which would collaborate unconditionally with the United States, and those which would collaborate while at the same time maintaining their independence and sovereignty. Paz mentioned that Argentina could find assistance from some countries in opposing the United States, but he did not specifically name the states concerned. A general reference was made only to Mexico and Peru. Peron was visibly displeased with such statements on the part of Paz.
4. For the Argentine Army the problem is clear: namely, collaboration with the United States in the defense of the Western Hemisphere.

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5. The assignment of the economic experts of the delegation is also well defined. Cereijo believes that Argentina must carry out its economic planning, and that nothing must deter them from reaching that goal. He is anxious to obtain the raw materials required for Argentine economy.
6. Topics touching on the internal security of the Western Hemisphere countries were also discussed in the meetings. Argentina feels that it is completely up-to-date in the fight against Communism. The opinion was expressed that in no other American country is the struggle against Communism waged so efficiently.
7. In summary it may be said that upon arrival of the Argentine delegation in Washington contact will probably be made with delegates from the other Latin-American states in an attempt to establish a line of policy, such as possibly forming a bloc which would agree to cooperate conditionally with the United States, in return for certain economic concessions. Such "theatrical tactics" on the part of the Argentine delegation will be for domestic consumption only. In Buenos Aires the diplomatic missions of the other American states were little inclined to discuss the conference with representatives of the Argentine Government.
8. According to information reaching Peron from Chile, Assistant Secretary of State Miller left Argentina somewhat unhappy and will not play the role of friend of Argentina in Washington. It is believed that the Argentine problem will be treated there on a coldly mathematical basis. Presidential circles, especially Cereijo, are clearly worried about this. Cereijo, nevertheless, feels that a realistic attitude will prevail in Washington, and that Argentina's problems will be understood.